

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Hurricanes Rita and Katrina

SITUATION REPORT 20

1400 Hours September 24, 2005

WEATHER

Forecast: *Mostly cloudy across the Commonwealth today, with high temperatures in the mid 70's to mid 80's. Mostly cloudy tonight with lows around 60 degrees. Southwest Virginia may experience some drizzle and dense fog overnight.*

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: *The Virginia EOC is at Increased Readiness Condition and is monitoring National Hurricane Center advisories for Hurricane Rita.*

State of Emergency: *On September 23, 2005, Governor Warner extended the Declaration of Emergency with all the regulatory and deployment powers already granted for Hurricane Katrina, to cover the Commonwealth's response to Hurricane Rita. The Commonwealth will directly assist evacuees who arrive in Virginia from the states that have suffered unprecedented damages from either or both of these devastating storms. Governor Warner reiterated Virginia is ready to shelter evacuees at Town Pickett.* The Governor directed the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to coordinate state relief efforts in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The President approved Governor Warner's request for an emergency declaration on September 10, 2005. The incident period began on August 29, 2005 authorizing 100% federal funding for Public Assistance Category B (emergency protective measures). The assistance is for all 95 counties and 40 independent cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Protective Actions: Local EOC Activations: None at this time.

Local Emergency Declared: None at this time.

Evacuations: Localities across the Commonwealth are receiving evacuees from the Gulf States. The American Red Cross, voluntary organizations, and state agencies are providing assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to the evacuees.

Schools Closed: None at this time.

OPERATIONS SECTIONS

State Warning Point: Continuing to receive and disseminate situation reports from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina impacted states.

TOWN PICKETT

The Commonwealth is in close communication with FEMA regarding the transfer of evacuees from states impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Administrative and security staffs remain at Town Pickett and all agencies are on standby for implementation within 12 hours.

VIRGINIA EVACUEES

FEMA and Red Cross registrations indicate that there may be as many as **15,000** people in Virginia who evacuated from the areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina. ***The impact of Hurricane Rita evacuees on the Commonwealth is unknown at this time.***

Red Cross reports 3,576 applicants (1 applicant per household – 7,907 people). The largest numbers continue to be in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. To determine the general status of the evacuees, VDEM staff surveyed in-state Red Cross chapters who have reported Katrina cases. The survey results indicate that some people evacuated in advance of the storm and others came after the storm. Many of the evacuees the Red Cross has seen are low-to-moderate income and were renting accommodations in Louisiana or Mississippi. Their situations right now are not urgent, although they have not yet made many of their crucial decisions such as whether to stay in Virginia, find employment, and find housing in their current location.

Red Cross has extended its support of evacuees in hotels an additional two weeks – to 30 days. Red Cross casework will continue as long as the applicant is receiving federal disaster assistance.

FEMA reports 5,286 applicants (1 applicant per household). FEMA provided information from their database to VDEM on Friday, September 23. Discussions with FEMA continue concerning the implementation of the regular FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) for evacuees and the interaction with new programs.

Government Programs Assisting Evacuees:

Department of Social Services has enrolled 2,348 in the “e-Medicaid” health care assistance program administered by the Department of Medical Assistance. **Washington County DSS, local Red Cross chapter and other partners set up a facility as a Red Cross center near Bristol, Virginia to assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees entering the Commonwealth as they travel North on Interstate 81. For approximately 8 days, a Red Cross station was set up inside the Virginia Welcome Center at Mile Marker 1 on Interstate 81N. More than 800 people passed through the facility and received food, water, etc. On September 23, local DSS began counting Hurricane Rita evacuees throughout Virginia.**

U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a new policy for evacuees applying for disaster food stamps. Households from the affected counties can receive a one-month maximum allotment, regardless of income, resources or non-financial factors.

Department of Education reports that 1,212 students are enrolled in public schools and an additional 171 children have enrolled in pre-schools. The schools have also enrolled 7 special needs children. The school districts with the largest numbers of evacuee students are in the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia regions.

Head Start programs have enrolled 49 children so far.

College and university enrollments of students from Gulf Coast region: University of Virginia (140), George Mason University (40), Virginia Commonwealth university (38), University of Richmond (33), Virginia Union University (3), Virginia State University (4), Randolph Macon College (10) and Norfolk State University (8).

WIC (women, infants and children) programs are accepting women from impacted states and waiving an ID. They use “homeless” protocols to be able to service clients, but they cannot track the evacuees separately and therefore do not know the exact number.

The Hurricane Housing Transition Center at VHCD is accepting calls from housing providers and calls that come through the VPIC. The housing number is 1-804-225-8989.

Virginia Employment Commission reports that more than 400 people have applied for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

Mental Health – Community Services Boards are providing behavioral health services to evacuees across the Commonwealth.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established a website (<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>) and toll-free number (1-866-KAT-MEDI) to help identify private sector health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Virginia VOAD: Southeast Virginia VOAD – several volunteers have been trained by Southeast Virginia Red Cross chapter to help with registration of evacuees.

EMAC

The total number of personnel from Virginia deployed through EMAC is 603. The total number of EMAC personnel from Virginia in the impacted areas today is **168**. The VEOC is coordinating **19** open requests through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The Online EOC has posted the latest EMAC requests for state and/or local agency response. Currently supporting **6** EMAC missions in Louisiana and **4** in Mississippi. **Seven missions are complete.**

Chesterfield County – A 7 person Incident Management Team from Chesterfield County deployed to the New Orleans Fire Emergency Operations Center. The County's Mobile Command Post and 4 personnel deployed to Baton Rouge in support of Louisiana State Police. Ten personnel deployed to Mississippi with Law Enforcement Task Force # 1. A total of 21 personnel deployed.

Northern Virginia Localities - Two ten-person Incident Management Teams from the region deployed to assist the New Orleans Emergency Operations Center. VDEM Regional Coordinator deployed with one of the teams. Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Division Chief 7 deployed with one of these teams. Six-person Incident Management Team deployed to the NASA Complex Mississippi. Four-person IMT deployed to Louisiana Office of Emergency Management in Baton Rouge. Thirty-person IMT deployed to Harrison County Mississippi for State Emergency Management Office. Fifty-person fire fighting task force with equipment deployed to Hancock County Fire Command. A total of 110 personnel deployed from the region.

Henrico County – Five personnel deployed with Law Enforcement Task Force #1 to Mississippi.

STATE ACTIVITIES

Virginia National Guard (VNG) - **All VNG personnel have returned to home base.**

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy (DMME) – The Hurricane's path took it over the Lake Charles/Beaumont/Port Arthur area home to 7 refineries with 1.72-million barrels/day refinery capacity. No damage reports are available at this time. The hurricane path moved away from the Houston/Texas City area. This area is home to 9 refineries with 2.29 million-barrels/day refinery capacity. A limited, early wire report (10:30 a.m.) is that the 437,000-bbl/day. Exxon-Mobil refinery was not damaged, and that other petroleum/petrochemical plants in the Houston area were not seriously damaged. Colonial Pipeline is seeing intermittent service on its main lines. Colonial Pipeline is feeding trunk lines out of breakout tanks. There are reports of a possible 2-day delay in a gasoline pipeline delivery to the Richmond/Chesapeake area. No news on the Plantation Pipeline. Approximately 99.125% of offshore Gulf of Mexico oil production was shut in and 72.04% of offshore Gulf of Mexico natural gas production was shut in. State (VDOT/DGS) supplies are adequate. The EPA extended the reformulated gasoline (RTF) waiver for Richmond by one week to midnight, Sept. 30. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has requested an RTF waiver for Tidewater. Many suppliers have contract customers at 100% allocation, leaving them unable to respond to increased volume from panic buying. The Giant refinery had put 15-20,000 barrels of RTF into the Tidewater spot market on Thursday. Due to demand from contract purchasers, spot capacity was down to about 6,500 bbls. Giant anticipated no RTF available for the spot market by today. On Friday, the Giant terminal had a long line of trucks being turned away without fuel. The largest BP dealer in Tidewater was receiving about ½ normal

supply on Friday and could not keep up with demand, anticipating needing to close stations. Exxon-Mobil anticipates under the best-case scenario that there will be RFG supply problems from Baltimore south through Virginia. No news of changes in the state gasoline supply situation this morning. The only gas price/fuel shortage article in this morning's press was in the Bristol Herald Courier, citing that panic buying was causing some problems in the Tri-Cities (VA-TN) area.

Department of Transportation – An ample supply of gasoline is available for normal operations for approximately 58 days, and diesel fuel supply for approximately 37 days.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) - There are 20 personnel deployed to Mississippi to manage a food and supply distribution center. Two people are in Texas preparing for Hurricane Rita response (VICC request). A total of 22 personnel are deployed.

Virginia State Police (VSP) – Deployed 22 personnel with Law Enforcement Task Force #1 to Mississippi through EMAC.

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) - Deployed 10 personnel with Law Enforcement Task Force #1 to Mississippi through EMAC.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management – Six Community Relations Reservists are scheduled to return to Virginia today.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) - VDH is supporting Town Pickett readiness efforts and a Medical Support element remains on 12-hour standby. Town Pickett lab/testing services arrangements have been approved through Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services (provider Hospital lab to bring copy of CLIA certificate to the site and notify VDH CQHS&CP of the scope and date service implemented). Automated callout methodology established to alert key Pickett Health staff in the event of after-hours activation. Collecting information on availability of acute care, nursing home/long term facility and mental health bed capacity statewide. Airport evacuee triage, if needed, to be coordinated through RIC with VCU Medical Control Center IAW existing Central Region MCI Plan. Virginia Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)-1 – A 33 person deployment team and a five person Medical Strike Team are staged in San Antonio, Texas in support of Hurricane Rita. Prince William County Environmental Health manager deployed to Louisiana. Lenowisco Health District food safety specialist deployed on 09/16 with Red Cross to San Antonio, Texas, working in public affairs at Kelly Air Force Base. There are also 2 Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) personnel, in support of DMORT operations and 1 VDH Public Information Officer deployed to Texas in support of FEMA. Fifteen Medical Reserve Corp groups have been activated, most through Red Cross, for deployment in support of local operations and target area support operations. Forty-two (42) MRC personnel are deployed on out-of-state missions, including 5 personnel from Roanoke Health Department (Red Cross mission), and 49 are supporting operations in Virginia, for a total of 91 MRC personnel.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Citizen Corps volunteers are assisting with local emergency management efforts in support of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts across the state. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers have been deployed through their local Red Cross chapters. Medical Reserve Corp personnel deployments are reflected above in the VDH report.

The Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) reports **6** calls received on Friday, September 23. The total number of calls received to date is **830**. The VPIC hours are from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm until further notice.

The Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, activated under 1st Air Force, continues to fly transport and recon missions in and out of New Orleans. Three aircraft with 6 personnel deployed.

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